(d) whether the cricket stadia presently available in the country are considered to be suitable for the above events;

(e) whether there is any proposal to construct any new stadium in Delhi or elsewhere in the country; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPORTS (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) to (f) The Board of Control for Cricket in India, which is responsible for organising cricket matches in India, have intimated that they plan to hold jointly, with Pakistan, the World Cup cricket matches in October-November, 1987 for which venues have not yet been finalised. They have also intimated that the cricket stadia at present available in the country are suitable for the above event and that they are not proposing to construct any new stadium in Dehli or elsewhere in the country.

Problems of Elementary Education in N.E.R.

1881. SHRIMATI ILA BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some problems of elementary education had been identified at the North-Eastern Regional Conference, 1982; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what steps Government have taken to solve those problems?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRIMATI SHEILA KAUL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The focus of the discussions in the Conference was on dimensions of the problem of universalisation of elementary education including elementary education and increasing retention; adequacy of the administrative support and progress of non-formal education. As school education including elementary education is basically the responsiblility of States and mostly managed by them, the States/Union Territories in the region are to take further steps on the action points that emerged in the Conference. However, in the context of universalisation of elementary education various measures for increasing enrolment and retention, and reduction in dropout rates have been taken/envisaged. A statement indicating these measures is attached.

Statement

Measures envisaged and undertaken to achieve Universalisation of Elementary Education:

1. 'Elementary Education' has been included in the Minimum Needs Programme (MNP) and in the new Twenty Point Programme of the Government and, elementary education has been accorded a high priority in Education under the Sixth Five Year Plan.

2. Opening of primary and middle schools within easy walking distance covering the needs of all habitations.

3. Intensification of the utilisation of existing schooling facilities.

4. Conversion of single-teacher schools into two-teacher schools.

5. Improvement of physical facilities of primary and middle schools.

6. Provision of non-formal part-time education on an extensive scale.

7. Appointment of Woman-teachers on a larger scale and provision of creches/pre-schools as adjuncts of primary and middle schools.

8. Improvement of teacher competence through application of better standards of educational qualification and in service training.

9. Special attention to girls and to target groups like scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, landless labourers and slum-dwellers.

10. Adequate provision of incentives like free textbooks and stationery, free uniforms particularly for girls, attendance scholarships particularly for girls and mid-day-meals.

11. Improvement of quality of education through decentralisation of curricula making them relevant to the needs, life situations and environments of children in diverse social, economic, cultural and geographical conditions.

12. Introduction of an ungraded school systtm and elimination of stagnation so that every child shall complete one class each year and will be promoted to next higher class till he complete class VIII, but with adequate safeguards by way of periodic assessment and evaluation on a continuing basis.

13. Provision of multiple-point entry, into any class in the elementary stage.

14. Concentrated efforts in the nine educationally backward States, augmented by special Central assistance for non-formal programme and for appointment of women teachers in primary schools in these States, and also in backward areas/pockets in each State.

15. Monitoring of attendance in Primary and middle schools.

16. Strengthening of the supervisory machinery and decentralisation of administration of elementary education down to the block-level.

17. Parental education to overcome their apathy towards the education of children especially girls and setting up of school committee in all schools paricularly in the rural and backward areas.

18. Greater use of mass media for elementary education including teacher training.

19. Constitution of a National Committee on point 16 of the 20-Point Programme to guide the implementation of the programme of Universalisation in nine educationally backward States and setting up of State Task Forces for Elementary Education in these States.

20. Central paper assistance to all States/Union Territories for the production of teaching and learning materials for non-formal education programme for elementary age-group children.

21. Mounting of national campaigns for intensive efforts for increasing enrolment and retention during the campaign period with follow-up action throughout the academic year.

22. Instituion of awards for excellence in performance for the spread of elementary education for girls.

Finalisation of Plan for Maintenance and Development of the Port Sector

1882. SHRI J. K. JAIN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the plan for the maintenance and the development of the port sector for the Seventh Five Year Plan period has been formulated and finalised;

(b) if so, what is the outlay suggested for the major and minor ports, separately;

(c) whether any new major port schemes are proposed to be taken up during the above Plan period; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) These will be decided only after the Seventh Five Year Plan has been finalized.

Donations demanded by Public Schools

1883. SHRI SHAMIM AHMED SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a large number of English medium recognised public schools in Delhi are demanding donations to the tune of several thousands of rupees for admission of children to those schools;

(b) if so, what are the details of the complaints, if any, received so far against those schools and what action Government have taken against them; and